447|448|34 IPC Police Station Ambedkar Nagar, which was registered at the instance of Shri M. Ahmed, Chief Security Officer, Hamdard Nagar Institution. Some of the persons complained against were arrested by the police, who were later on released on bail by the court.

Ban on Communal parties

1128. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government contemplate to ban the communal parties or propose to take steps to combat the influence of communal forces; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) There is no proposal, at present before the Government to ban communal organisations in the country. So far no definition in regard to communal organisations has been evolved. Government is committed to combat the influence of communal forces. However, in the context of separating religion from politics, Parliament has already passed the Religious Institutions (Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1988. The Government is considering other possible measures. It would not be feasible at this stage to indicate any details thereof or the time-frame by which a final decision can be taken to introduce a Bill in Parliament.

CBI Investigation into Payment of Commission by TTCI

1129. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bureau of Investigation has started an investigation into the allegation that commission to the tune of Rs. 20 crores has been paid by the Tea Trading Corporation of India (TTCI) over a period of last two and half years, in violation of Government's policies; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) CBI has not informed the Government of starting any such investigation.

(b) Does not arise.

Effect of Amendment of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957

1130. SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that with the recent amendment of Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, notices issued by the D.M.C. for revision of the rateable value of large number of properties in Delhi have become redundant;

(b) if so, whether the D.M.C. has sent the tax demands in respect of properties referred to above for the year 1988-89 on the basis of earlier assessments; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. Sir,

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Curbing of Foreign Tours by Government Officers

1131. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that instructions have been issued for curbing foreign tours by Government officers to save foreign

exchange, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that despite these instructions, foreign tours are being permitted by the Ministries/Departments without proper scrutiny with regard to their importance and purpose;

(c) whether there is any increase in the number of official delegations for foreign tours during the last three years, if so, what are the details thereof stating the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether there is any proposal for further tightening the norms for undertaking foreign tours by official delegations in view of the depletion of foreign exchange resources and if not, what are the reasons therefor;

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) to (d) All proposals for foreign tours of Government Officers are examined carefully by the Screening Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary before they are recommended to the Minister incharge of the administrative Department for final approval. Instructions have also been issued from time to time for ensuring utmost economy in the expenditure on travel including foreign travel. Thee instructions envisage that Budget provision for travel should be split into external travel and internal travel and the expenditure under each of these items snould be regularly monitored. While examining proposals for deputation abroad, the justifications for the deputation is scrutinised from the essentiality angle and also taking into account the expenditure already incurred out of the Budget provision specifically earmarked for foreign travel. There had been no significant increase in the number of foreign tours during the last three years. Since the existing instructions and procedure for regulating deputation/delegation abroad ensure utmost economy in expenditure on foreign tours, there is no proposal to issue any fresh instructions in the matter.

Allocation of Budget amount for Ministry of Finance and its subordinate offices

1132. SHRI SHAMIM HASHIM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the revised total budget allocated to the Ministry of Finance and its attached and subordinate offices separately for the financial year 1988-89;

(b) what is the amount spent up to 31st December, 1988 and from 1st January, 1989 to 31st March, 1989 (monthwise) by the Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices separately; and

(c) what amount has been spent on purchase of furniture, carpet, crockery and other furnishing items like coolers, air-conditioners besides staff cars upto 31st December, 1988 and from 1st January, 1989 to 31st March, 1989 by the Ministry and its attached and subordinate offices, separately, monthwise and itemwise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CL, Annexure No. 55]

(c) The information is not centrally available nor is it practicable to collect the same within a reasonable time as the purchases of various items of furnitures furnishings etc. are being made by various offices located in far flung areas of the country under the powers delegated to them.

Launching of prosecution against M|s. ITC Ltd. for 'Brand law' violation in Respect of their famous cigarette 'Now'

1133. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Board of Excise and Customs proposes to launch